MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2019/2020

BAE1034
ENGLISH FOR BUSINESS STUDIES
(All groups/sections)

13 MARCH 2020
9.00 AM – 11.00 AM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

1. This question paper consists of **FIVE** pages with **TWO** sections.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in the Answer Booklet provided.

SECTION A: READING [30 MARKS]

Instruction: Read the passages carefully and answer ALL questions that follow.

Young, Gifted and Held Back

1 In the world of "The Hunger Games" youngsters are forced to fight to the death for the amusement of their white-haired rulers. Today's teen fiction is relentlessly dark, dystopian, and full of misery, but the gap between fantasy and reality is often narrower than you might think. The older generation may not resort to outright murder, but as our special report this week on millennials describes, in important ways the older generation hold their juniors down.

2 Roughly a quarter of the world's people—some 1.8 billion—have turned 15 but not yet reached 30. In many ways, they are the luckiest group of young adults ever to have existed. They are richer than any previous generation, and live in a world without smallpox or Mao Zedong. They are the best-educated generation ever—Haitians today spend longer in school than Italians did in 1960. Thanks to all that extra learning and to better nutrition, they are also more intelligent than their elders. If they are female or gay, they enjoy greater freedom in more countries than their predecessors would have thought possible. In addition, they can look forward to improvements in technology that will, say, enable many of them to live well past 100. So what, exactly, are they complaining about?

3 Plenty. Just as, for the first time in history, the world's youngsters form a common culture, so they also share the same youthful grievances. Around the world, young people gripe that it is too hard to find a job and a place to live, and that the path to adulthood has grown longer and more complicated.

4 Many of their woes can be blamed on policies favouring the old over the young. Consider employment. [1.] That suits those with jobs, who tend to be older, but it makes firms reluctant to hire new staff. The young are disadvantaged. In most regions they are at least twice as likely as their elders to be unemployed. The early years of any career are the worst time to be idle, because these are when the work habits of a lifetime become ingrained. Those unemployed in their 20s typically still feel the "scarring" effects of lower income, as well as unhappiness, in their 50s.

5 Housing, too, is often rigged against the young. Homeowners dominate the bodies that decide whether new houses may be built. They often say no, so as not to spoil the view and reduce the value of their own property. Over-regulation has doubled the cost of a typical home in Britain. Its effects are even worse in many of the big cities around the world where young people most want to live. [2.] The youngsters of Kuala Lumpur are known as the "homeless generation". Young American women are more likely to live with their parents or other relatives than at any time since the second world war.

6 Consequently, young people are often footloose. With the whole world to explore and nothing to tie them down, they move around more often than their elders. [3.] By one estimate, global GDP would double if people could move about freely. *That* is

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politically impossible—indeed, the mood in rich countries is turning against immigration. But it is striking that so many governments discourage not only cross-border migration but also the domestic sort. China's *hukou* system treats rural folk who move to cities as second-class citizens. India makes it hard for those who move from one state to another to obtain public services. A UN study found that 80% of countries had policies to reduce rural-urban migration, although much of human progress has come from people putting down their hoes and finding better jobs in the big smoke. All these barriers to free movement especially harm the young, because they most want to move.

7 The old have always subsidised their juniors. Within families, they still do. However, many governments favour the old: an ever greater share of public spending goes on pensions and health care for them. This is partly the natural result of societies ageing, but it is also because the elderly ensure that policies work in their favour. By one calculation, the net flow of resources (public plus private) is now from young to old in at least five countries, including Germany and Hungary. *This is unprecedented and unjust*—the old are much richer.

8 The young could do more to stand up for themselves. [4.]. It is the same in Indonesia and only slightly better in Japan. It is not enough for the young to sign online petitions. If they want governments to listen, they should vote. However, the old have a part to play, too. The young are an oppressed minority—albeit an unusual one—in the straightforward sense that governments are systematically preventing them from reaching their potential.

9 That is a cruel waste of talent. Today's under-30s will one day dominate the labour force. If their skills are not developed, they will be less productive than they could be. Countries such as India are counting on a demographic dividend from their large populations of young adults will find that it fails to materialise. Rich, ageing societies will find that, unless the youth of today can get a foot on the career ladder, tomorrow's pensioners will struggle. What is more, oppressing youngsters is dangerous. Countries with lots of jobless, disaffected young men tend to be more violent and unstable, as millions of refugees from the Middle East and Africa can attest.

10 The remedy is easy to prescribe—and hard to enact. [5.]. They should scrap restrictions on domestic migration and allow more cross-border movement. They should make education a priority.

11 It is a lot to expect from political leaders who often seem unequal to the task of even modest reform. But every parent and grandparent has a stake in this, too. If they put their shoulders to the wheel, who knows what they might accomplish.

Adapted from: (2016). Young, gifted and held back. The Economist. Retrieved November 15, 2019, from https://www.economist.com/leaders/2016/01/23/young-gifted-and-held-back

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Question I (5 marks)
Instructions: Decide which of the sentences (a) – (e) best fits in each of the boxes labelled 1-5 in the passage.

a. Rents and home prices in such places have far outpaced incomes. (1 mark)

b. Governments should unleash the young by cutting the red tape that keeps them out of jobs, and curbing the power of property-owners to stop homes from being built. (1 mark)

c. In many countries, labour laws require firms to offer copious benefits and make it hard to lay workers off. (1 mark)

d. In America just over a fifth of 18- to 34-year-olds turned out to vote in the latest general election; three-fifths of over 65s did. (1 mark)

e. This makes them more productive, especially if they migrate from a poor country to a rich one. (1 mark)

Question II (5 marks)
Instructions: Find a word in the passage for each of the meaning below.

1. relating to or denoting an imagined state or society where there is great suffering or injustice. (Paragraph 1) (1 mark)
2. a person who held a job or office before the current holder. (Paragraph 2) (1 mark)
3. a feeling of resentment over something believed to be wrong or unfair. (Paragraph 3) (1 mark)
4. a regular payment made by the state to people of or above the official retirement age and to some widows and disabled people. (Paragraph 7) (1 mark)
5. become actual fact; happen. (Paragraph 9) (1 mark)

Question III (20 marks)
Instructions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. In your own words, state the main idea of paragraph 2. (1 mark)

2. What is the writer's attitude towards the difficulties faced by the young? Provide an evidence to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. Those unemployed in their 20s typically still feel the "scarring" effects of lower income, as well as unhappiness, in their 50s (line 32-33) implies that … (1 mark)

4. List **three (3)** reasons why the young could not afford to buy houses. (3 marks)

5. What does "That" in line 45 refer to? (1 mark)

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6. What does "this" in the sentence "This is unprecedented and unjust..." (line 62) refers to? (1 mark)

7. According to the passage, what can the young do to improve their situation? (1 mark)

8. What is the author's purpose of writing this text? Provide an evidence to support your answer. (2 marks)

9. What is the author's point-of-view towards the older generation? Provide an evidence to support your answer. (2 marks)

10. Does the passage show any bias? Provide an explanation for your answer. (2 marks)

11. Identify the author's overall pattern of organisation and provide an example from the passage to justify your answer. (2 marks)

12. Identify the overall tone used by the author and provide an example from the passage to justify your answer. (2 marks)

SECTION B: LANGUAGE FOCUS [20 MARKS]

Question I (10 marks)
Instructions: Construct ONE concise sentence based on each set of sentences in the question below.

Example: (0) In the month of April. We detected a quality control issue. It was instructed by the CEO that this item be presented by the manager at the next board meeting.
The CEO instructed the manager to present the quality control issue detected last April, in the next board meeting.

a. Basically, in light of the fact that Congressman Fuenches was totally exhausted by his last campaign, there was an expectation on the part of the voters that he would not reduplicate his effort to achieve office in government again. (2 marks)

b. Bothered by allergies, a condition that made them sneeze, some of the preschool children had sinus troubles that caused them to miss several days in nursery school this spring (2 marks)

c. There is a desire on the part of many of us to maintain a spring recess for the purpose of getting away from the demands of our studies. (2 marks)

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d. Joe was an honest and hardworking man. Basically, he never gave much consideration to sitting idly about, doing nothing constructive. (2 marks)

e. At what point in time will a downturn in the stock market have a really serious effect on the social life of people as a whole? (2 marks)

Question II (10 Marks)

Instructions: Write complete sentences using the idiomatic expressions provided below. Each sentence must consist of minimum 12 words.

1. rat-race
2. set the ball rolling
3. top-dog
4. windfall
5. whitewash

End of Paper